(d) whether Government are taking any steps for the protection of rolling stocks, bridges and railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. *Vide* Para 1.8.1of its Report No. 6 of 2007, CAG has made certain comments regarding overloading of wagons. Recommendations of CAG are as under:

"Since loading of wagons beyond permitted axle load limits is likely to damage rolling stock as well as track, Railways should take urgent steps to complete the installation of weigh bridges at all the loading points and strengthening the monitoring mechanism as envisaged. Since the increase in permissible axle load reduces the leeway available, no overloading whatsoever should be permitted as this would have serious impact on track."

CAG's comments are being examined in Ministry of Railways.

(d) Inputs such as Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD), Wheel Impact Load Detector (WILD), bridge instrumentation etc. and maintenance requirements are being given as per requirement for higher axle load operation. Indian Railway has installed 106 Electronic In-motion weigh bridges to check the wagons for overloading, if any, for protection of wagons.

Construction at New Delhi station

1484. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the construction work at New Delhi railway station is likely to be completed; and

(b) what steps are being taken to reduce the pressure on New Delhi station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The following developmental works have been planned for execution at New Delhi railway station:

(1) Development of New Delhi yard (phases III, IV and V) planned for completion by March, 2008; and

(2) Construction of new station building on Ajmeri Gate side planned for completion by September, 2008.

In order to reduce pressure on New Delhi railway station, following measures have been taken by the Railways:

- A new passenger terminal at Anand Vihar railway station has been planned for construction. In the first Phase, 3 platforms have been planned at Anand Vihar to cater to long distance passenger trains;
- Two island platforms have been planned at New Delhi. The existing foot over bridge no. 3 which presently connects platform no. 12 to platform no. 6 has been planned for extension to cover all platforms at New Delhi railway station;

- Two other passenger terminals have been planned at Holambi Kalan and Bijawasan railway station in Delhi area;
- The following passenger trains have been diverted *via* Hazrat Nizamuddin — Ghaziabad without touching New Delhi Railway station:

  (a) 2687/2688 Chennai-Dehradun Express

  (b) 4309/4310 Ujjain-Dehradun Express

  (c) 4317/4318 Indore- Dehradun Express

  (d) 8237/8234 Bilaspur-Amritsar Chhattisgarh Express

- The following trains have been given stoppage at stations in National Capital Region with effect from 01.07.07:

(1) 4731 New Delhi-Bhatinda Intercity Express has been given stoppage at Subzi Mandi station.

(2) 2715/2716 Sachkhand Express has been given stoppage at Faridabad station.

(3) 2561 Swatantrata Sainani Express has been given stoppage at Ghaziabad station.

(4) 5279/5280 Poorabiya Express has been given stoppage at Ghaziabad station.

(5) 2479/2428 Rewa Express has been given stoppage at Ghaziabad station.

(6) 4723/4724 Kalindi Express has been given stoppage at Delhi Shahdra station.

(7) 2017/2018 New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Express has been given stoppage at Ghaziabad Railway station.

Regarding redevelopment of New Delhi railway station as world class station, time-frame has yet not been decided.

Gauge conversion of Hassan-Mangalore rail line

1485. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is undue delay in completing the gauge conversion of the Hassan-Mangalore rail line;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the likely date for completion of the project;

(c) whether there has been a huge cost escalation on account of time-overrun; and

(d) if so, the details with amount spent thereon, so far, and would be required to be spent for completion of the project?